

## The Times-Dispatch

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## NOVIBAZAR THE DANGER SPOT.

From the incipency of the threat of the present Balkan upheaval, Austria-Hungary has been recognized as the most potent factor militating against localizing the war and preventing the involvement of outside powers—preventing, in short, the issue of developing into a European issue. Before hostilities commenced, Count Berchtold, the Austro-Hungarian Chancellor, although at the time engaged in trying to bring about an adjustment without recourse to arms, and while hopeful of working a Francis Joseph's "diplomatic miracle," made a speech to the Hungarian Foreign Affairs Committee, in which was this significant declaration: "Our Balkan policy is no policy of conquest, but this does not mean that we are not interested in the events in the Balkans, where we have weighty and vital interests, and which we are determined to protect in all circumstances." These words are naturally recalled, and their significance is especially emphasized by the Serbian advance into Novibazar.

This "sanjak," as the district is usually called, while meagre as to area, being only about 100 miles long by from thirty to forty miles wide, stands for one of Austria-Hungary's weightiest and most vital interests in the Balkans. As related to her designs upon Turkey, when the inevitable day of partition shall come, the question who shall dominate it, meantime, is one of vast political and strategic importance to her. It constituted a portion of old Bosnia, divides the sister states of Serbia and Montenegro from each other, and is the only Turkish domain bordering Austria-Hungary's possessions. Save for it Osman and Austro-Hungarian territory would be separated by a fringe of Slav states.

In Article XXV, of the Berlin treaty, by which Austria-Hungary was authorized to occupy, police and administer the affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the "protecting" government disclaimed any wish to undertake the administration of the sanjak of Novibazar, but, on the contrary, expressed a desire that the Ottoman authorities continue to exercise their functions there. None the less, Vienna deemed it wisest and best, in order to insure the maintenance of the new political states, and in the interest of freedom and security of communication, that the dual monarchy reserve the right of keeping garrisons in the sanjak, and of "having commercial and military roads in this part of the ancient vilayet of Bosnia." Such right Austria-Hungary exercised, continuing to garrison the "strip" until October 5, 1908, when she formally and arbitrarily annexed Bosnia and Herzegovina, "evacuated" the sanjak, and turned it over to full Turkish control.

This was, however, more of a sop to the powers whom she had flouted than to Turkey. Particularly was it in the nature of a mere draught of soothing syrup administered to Russia and Serbia, since meanwhile her strategic railway system, the contemplated other ramifications of which were through various sections of the country further southeast, had been extended to the borders of the sanjak. Not only has Novibazar blocked any effective coalition of Serbia and Montenegro, who have common ambition and interests in restoring the old Serbian empire, but it is the door to Austro-Hungarian advance upon Salonica.

Therefore, it can be readily understood that Austria-Hungary's policy and action in the event of Serbia endeavoring to secure a permanent foothold in the sanjak, are looked forward to with the greatest anxiety. It is apprehended, and with serious reason, that she will find or invent excuse as opportunity to intervene upon one pretext or another, with a view to "protecting" her "weighty and vital interests" referred to by Count Berchtold. Indeed, it is difficult to see how, from her standpoint, she could afford not to, unless she has determined to forego one of her most cherished dreams—a dream not only involving further great territorial expansion, but the protectorate and the hegemony of the southern slave.

Logically, admittedly in truth, such a step—Austro-Hungarian intervention—would be met by Russian counter-intervention, directed to the possession of Constantinople, and embracing a challenge of southern Slav leadership. After that no man can say; nothing is certain. But one thing seems entirely certain now. It is that the drift of affairs and the developments are rapidly making Novibazar the danger spot—the plague spot, as old Bismarck termed Bulgaria—as bearing on the ominous future possibilities of the struggle. In the channel of the powers and in their tentative war councils, the geographical, ethnic, racial and thinly populated

sanjak of Novibazar looms larger, and is more of a cynosure, it is safe to say, than Adrianople.

## SHORT-BALLOT PRINCIPLES.

A committee of the Ohio Municipal Association has thus defined the principles of the short ballot:

Only those offices should be elective which are important enough to attract the voter to the polls and induce him to make a critical examination of the qualifications of each candidate; all other offices should be appointive.

That few offices should be filled by election at one time, because of the confusion occasioned in the minds of the voters.

The direction in which these principles should be applied must be added. Appointive State officers for whose acts the appointive power is responsible, the commission plan of city government, the election of councilmen at large—these are a part of the short-ballot propaganda. The principle is wholly meritorious, because its operation results in the choice of efficient public servants by the people instead of the election of many inefficient officials whose qualifications the people had no time to pass upon. The principle of the short ballot is in full operation in all successful business enterprises, because it is a sound business rule that the superior should be held responsible for the efficiency or inefficiency of the subordinate. A corporation is divided into, say, several departments. The employees in these respective departments are under a department head, and the department heads are responsible to the appointive power of the corporation, the president, who in turn is responsible to the stockholders. The same principle should be applied to government, the people being substituted for the stockholders of the corporation and enabled to hold a few men responsible for the efficiency or inefficiency of the many subordinates whom the few appoint.

## PICTORIAL CONSCIENCES.

This is sad news for an erring race that comes from Cornell University. Science and athletics have combined to expose the weaknesses of men, not only to others, but to the very ones in fault. The Cornell football squad has been defeated so often this season that the coaches, in despair, have hit upon the moving picture as a means of showing the men their faults. A series of films have been taken of the team in action, and these will be thrown on the screen of a moving picture show, so that the members can get an idea of what the spectators thought of their ability. In case they should still have any lingering doubts as to what "dub" they really are, an ironical coach will lecture to the men, pointing out their sins of omission and commission. The report declares that "analysis of the pictures is expected to bring home in a striking way some of the weak points of the players."

This can hardly be denied. It will be as bad as letters that turn up years after they are written to prove a man a fool. The movies have taken the place of the theatre and most other amusements, but to have them take the place of the conscience and the candid friend is a dangerous innovation. It will do away with all the soothing balm that comes with the passage of time. Nobody will ever be allowed to forget slips that might as well be forgotten. The sole advantage of a conscience yet discovered is that it is the private property of the man who has to deal with it. A pictorial conscience, open to the public at a small fee, would no longer be a wee small voice, but a continuous show. This modern improvement on the moving finger and the handwriting on the wall is going too far. In conjunction with the omnipresent dictaphone to gather and embalm a victim's words, it would mean that there would be a permanent record of the very things for which no record is really wanted. A mistake can be argued about and explained, but a picture of the event would permit no reply.

All that has saved the self-respect of the motley human family so far is that no power has before been unkind enough to answer the prayer of allowing us to see ourselves as others see us. Nobody really wants to be seen so. What science and football coaches had better do is to invent some way of showing us to the world as we think we are and hope we are, and then we would welcome their interference.

## PROSPERITY GLUTTONS.

The railroads seem to meet with an adverse fortune at every turn. Since the beginning of the new fiscal year in June, the moving of the bumper crops of the country, as is well known, has greatly increased the traffic and has added to the unimpaired revenues of the carriers. Despite these favorable circumstances, however, the railroad managers have been unable to make net earnings keep pace with increasing gross receipts. But President Taft and his campaign managers, who are eagerly seeking for any manifestation of prosperity in the heavens above or the earth below for the purpose of giving the Republican party and the present administration credit, discarded the sleek and prosperous outward appearance of the transportation companies. They said "great is the Republican party! Behold how the railroad magnates walk about the market place attired in new raiment and bearing large chests of gold!" But the railroad managers tore their hair in grief and scattered ashes upon their heads, and said, "This is not our gold. We are carrying it to the capitalist who lent us money, to the dealer who sold us supplies, and to the wage-earner who labored for us. There will be nothing left for us." But the President and his managers were obstinate, and said "You may tell your

tail of woe and be impoverished again after November 5. Now, you must be prosperous for the sake of the G. O. P." The railroad officials answered shortly, saying, "Go to! You are gluttons for prosperity. We shall tell the people how little you know about railroads."

All this will explain why, several days ago, President Taft issued a statement asserting that additional evidence of Republican prosperity was to be found in the increasing gross earnings of the railroads, and why the railroad section of the press published statements showing in no uncertain way what a small amount of knowledge President Taft possessed about the financial condition of our transportation companies.

Our sympathies are with the railroads. The Republican managers have no right to create false impressions as to the poverty of the carriers and to clothe them with a wealth and glitter of raiment which are not theirs. We are afraid, though, that the railroads will have to do some hard public work before they can hope to reach again the same low level of poverty to which they had attained in the public mind before President Taft and his managers so shamefully misused them.

## LET THE PEOPLE RULE.

The Governor of Virginia is ineligible for re-election. He can hold office for only one term. He is rendered ineligible for a second term by the Constitution, which continues the prohibition in the old Constitution against a second gubernatorial term. The people, acting through their representatives, deliberately established this limitation upon their own power. They had the power to elect Governors for as many terms as they saw fit, but they voluntarily imposed the restriction upon themselves, realizing that for the proper conduct of certain offices limited terms are essential.

Is there a man who would remove this limitation upon the gubernatorial term? Is there a man who believes that the limitation is unjust, or that a deprivation of popular rights? No. The people regard the constitutional restriction upon them as altogether justifiable. Nobody has ever asserted that the right of the people to rule is denied by the restriction upon the Governor's term of office.

The people have an absolute right to limit the terms of any officer, and they do so in the full and free exercise of their right to rule, but the officeholders' trust, which is seeking to induce the people to vote for the two proposed constitutional amendments, which would permit unlimited terms of office to city treasurers and city commissioners of the revenue, asserts that the present limitation in the Constitution upon the terms of these officers is a denial of the right of the people to rule. Why are not the people just as much justified in limiting the terms of city treasurers and city commissioners of the revenue as they are in limiting the term of the Governor? If they do it in the case of the highest State officer, why isn't it just and right for them to do it in the case of minor revenue officers?

The people possess as much right and power to limit the terms of officers as they have to elect those officers. The people should resent the deceitful, the mendacious and misleading efforts of the officeholders' trust to belud this issue. The people can do so by voting "no" on the proposed amendments. The brazen attempt of the officeholders to deprive the people of their right to limit the terms of office of their public servants must be thwarted at the polls.

## FICTION THRILLS FOR CHILDREN.

Some diverting discussion of what kind of books children should read has been stirred up by the action of the Washington, D. C., public library in taking the Alger books and the Oliver Optic tales, along with the Pansy and Elsie series, off its shelves. The Washington librarian defends himself by saying that these books are not vicious, but just mediocre and essentially false to life. Within the last few years, in response to a growing demand for good books for young people, there has been provided an entirely new literature for children, and this, in connection with the classic juvenile fiction, makes recourse to the Alger and Optic kind of literature unnecessary. It is claimed that the public library can mold and direct the taste of its young users in a way impossible with older persons, and so cannot afford to furnish anything short of the best. Trashy books waste time, and do real harm to the taste of the child.

From Chicago, however, comes the interesting testimony that these so-called trashy books have helped men now come to be leaders in the world's work. Alexander Nevell, of the Progressive party, says that his early political battles were fought with one of the alluringly alliterative Alger series, "Hugged Dick," or "Sink and Swim," at his elbow. "No one can convince me that 'Hugged Dick,' in which I first discovered the joys of reading, is not good for boys." Elia Plank Young, head of Chicago schools, feels that she has outgrown her paper-covered novel days, but admits that she has read many of them, and advises "going slow" in discarding them. As a matter of fact, the sublime idealism of this type of story, with its beautiful insistence on the fact that virtue inevitably reaps its just reward, cannot be altogether a bad thing. To keep the glow of romance and faith alive in young hearts is a worthy end, even if something they have to learn that life is not very just or very kindly, especially to the poor, but honest. If they be false to the facts of life, they are true to what we wish were its spirit, and for the messenger boy

or the juvenile clerk to be told point blank that he could never be president might keep him from even wanting to be a foreman or superintendent. Moreover, some books can be endured as long as they do succeed in making young people read. For if they learn to love books they will find a way to love the best of books.

We doubt whether most of the new school of juvenile writing is very much truer to life than the old. Part of a story's glory is that it escapes reality. Many a sedate statesman finds succor from cares in perusing the veriest yellow-back of the dime-novel classics. Let us keep the thrillers for them, if we have to forbid them to children.

## SALVATION.

"And the Lord saw it, and it displeased Him that there was no judgment. And He saw that there was no intercessor; therefore His arm brought salvation unto him and His righteousness it sustained him."—Isaiah lix. 15-16.

This text seems to be a prophecy of the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. From it we may learn what "salvation" really is, what Christ came to save men from and how He saves them. The common idea of salvation nowadays is that it is some plan by which people are to escape hell fire by having Christ's righteousness imputed to them without their being righteous themselves.

Certainly that is not the salvation of which Isaiah speaks here. For Isaiah tells us very plainly from what God was going to save these people. Nothing was said about saving them from hell fire, but simply to save them from their sins. It is written, "Thou shalt call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins." If we look at Isaiah's own words the case is very simple. The men of his day had become bad men; they were not ungodly in their outward observances. On the contrary, they were seemingly very religious and devout. They "sought God daily and delighted to know His ways, like a nation that did righteousness and forsook not the ordinances of their God; they asked of Him the ordinances of justice; they took delight in approaching unto God."

But unfortunately for them and for all with whom they had to do, after they had asked God for the ordinances of justice they did not do them, and in spite of all the seeming religion, Isaiah says they failed to stand up for justice and truth, but trusted in vanity. Their feet ran to evil and they made haste to shed innocent blood; the way of peace they knew not, and they had made themselves crooked paths, speaking oppression and revolt, so that justice stood afar off; for truth was fallen in the street, and equity could not enter.

Then as now fallen human beings were much the same. How was the Lord going to save these false, unjust men? Was He just going to say: "Believe certain doctrines about Me, and you shall escape all punishment for your sins. My righteousness shall be imputed to you?" Nowhere can we find a word like that. But we do read that the Lord's righteousness sustained the Lord Himself; that through His Son's coming man would find the well-spring of salvation. We may be false and unjust, but God can never be. To Jesus all power is given in heaven and on earth, and He will use His power to save. The Lord's arm can bring us all salvation, but we can only obtain this forgiveness of sin by coming to Him. He has many ways of bringing us to Him; some come through misery, others through happiness, and often the way made at first sight appears much more hard than would seem to come from a loving Father; but He knows and He will not test us beyond our strength. He will thoroughly purge His floor and gather the wheat into His garner; but the chaff He will burn. His purpose is to save His people from their sins, to make men honest and true after His own likeness. And this is the meaning of His salvation and is the only salvation worth having for this life or the life to come.

Let us pray that whatsoever else He does for us, He will make honest men and women of us. If not we shall surely come to ruin. Whatsoever denomination or church we belong to, it will be all the same. We may call ourselves children of Abraham or members of the Holy Catholic Church or what we will, but when the axe is laid at the root of the tree, every tree that brings not forth good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire.

Do we want to be made sharers in that everlasting righteousness of God, which sustains Him and the whole world? If we do we can get all we want and even more. The Lord brings salvation to all who are faithful and true to ask it. The eternal righteousness of the Lord will do justice by every living soul of man if only we will do our part.

The deer-hunting season and the football games will now do their best to keep down congestion of population in these United States.

The Becker verdict is a good sign that Virginia justice is not confined to Virginia.

The fourth-class postmasters are now out of politics, but will that keep them from reading all the postal-cards that come their way?

The Bulgars seem to be doing better at Kirk Killish than the Bull Moose at Armageddon.

The Democrats are certainly going to have a big Thanksgiving Day this year.

The Balkan War is playing havoc with the goosefathers.

## THE SPIRITS OF THE OLD MASTERS ARE AT WORK.

By John T. McCutcheon.

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## PRINCESS DECLINES COMPROMISE OFFER

Lawsuit for Recovery of Share of Father's Great Fortune Enters Upon New Phase.

BY LA MARQUISE DE FONTENAY.

THE everlasting lawsuit of Princess Louise of Belgium for the recovery of her share of that portion of her father's great fortune which is now in the possession of the Belgian treasury has entered upon a new phase. It may be recalled that the Belgian government had judgment decided in its favor in the lower courts, on the ground that the ten or fifteen million dollars concerned belonged in reality, not to the late King Leopold, but to the national treasury, and that he had no right to will it away to a German town in the Duchy of Coburg, for the sole purpose of preventing either the state or his two daughters from benefiting financially by his death.

After this decision of the lower courts had thus been given against the princess and against the so-called Coburg Foundation, the Belgian treasury being the victor in the case and having, moreover, the property concerned in its custody—possession being nine points of the law—made a very generous offer of compromise to the princess with the object of putting an end to the lawsuits, which stir up much scandal, not conducive to the prestige of the reigning dynasty of Belgium.

But the princess declined to listen to any compromise, realizing perhaps that after her numerous creditors had been satisfied, there would be little left for herself if she sacrificed a portion of her claims for the sake of peace. In consequence thereof, her two lawyers, Maitres Pannan and Emile Janssen, have withdrawn from her case, and refuse to have anything more to do therewith. They are among the acknowledged leaders of the Belgian bar, and the very fact that they had resolutely refused to push the princess's suit, is of importance and a weight which it will now no longer possess. Her new lawyer is a comparatively unknown man, of the name of Halot, who has all his reputation to make, and who hopes, possibly, to achieve, if not fame, at any rate sensational notoriety by the recklessness with which he proposes to push the princess's suit.

Although the Kings of Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia and Montenegro have declared that under no circumstances shall newspaper correspondents be permitted to accompany the advance of their armies in the war that has just broken out in the Balkans, it is quite possible that some of these representatives of the press may succeed in attaching themselves to the various headquarters in connection with the commissariat and supplies department.

Thus, during the war in Manchuria between Japan and Russia seven years ago, several correspondents who had been denied permission by the Muscovite authorities to proceed to the front, managed to get there in spite of all that they had to undergo. The Russian officers, especially those who are rich, are passionately fond of champagne. There was so much of this in the headquarters of Harbin that it was used to be said that the richer officers positively used it for their ablutions. It mostly came from French houses and was sold in Manchuria at double and triple the price which the wine fetched in France.

tated his leaving the crack regiment to which he belonged, and also the army. Then as a climax his wife secured a divorce from him.

So he married the woman who had been the cause of so much trouble and came over to this country, where he was employed for a time as foreign correspondent in several houses of business in New York. But he did not prove a success, and the couple finally entered the service of the writer, as butler and maid. While the woman was fairly efficient as a maid, the man was hopeless as a butler, and was apt to drop dishes when at dinner familiar names and incidents on the other side were mentioned in his presence. Finally the writer induced the couple to all but marry. Realizing the impossibility of the situation, the writer assisted them to reach a country in South America, and to start life there on a regular footing. This was six years ago. They are now owners of the leading hotel of the city in which they are established, and are doing extremely well. I may add that Janssen is a very clever engineer, and that his attainments as such are already proving of value to him in the land of his adoption.

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The wine was furnished by the French newspapers concerned, to their correspondents, in lieu of funds and did not have to be paid for by the papers from the wine merchants, not by means of cash, but in payment of advertising space. In this way the interests of the wine houses were served, by their particular brand of champagne being pushed at the Russian headquarters in Manchuria by particularly daring and intelligent drummers. The newspapers did not have to pay out any cash to their correspondents. The latter made a handsome personal profit by the sale of the wine at a big advance, while incidentally the newspaper-reading public benefited through the graphic

accounts of battles and of conditions at headquarters and at the front, written by the wine pushers, who also used the tongues and likewise the discretion of officers high and low possessed of useful information. So everybody was satisfied.

The United States does not produce brands of champagne that are likely to appeal to Slav palates. But fine American whiskey would be very welcome during the terribly severe winter that is now about to begin in the Balkan ranges, and which is certain to cause frightful hardships to officers and men engaged in military operations. While an American journalist might not be able to get to the front as a war correspondent, yet he might reach the bring line as a purveyor of American whiskey, and judging by the success achieved in this way by French newspaper representatives in the war in Manchuria, there is no reason why the plan should not be tried again with advantage during the conflict that has just broken out in Southeastern Europe.

Kurt von Knobelsdorff, who is neither count nor baron, and who is under arrest in Chicago on a charge of swindling some well-to-do German residents of that city out of a sum of \$5,000, is a man of excellent family, but who has a criminal record in Germany. A warrant was issued for his arrest at Berlin in 1906, for frauds on an extensive scale, and he only escaped imprisonment by flight to the United States, where at first he concealed himself under a false name. He is the son of Colonel von Knobelsdorff, a former German officer, who was formerly stationed at Metz.

Kurt von Knobelsdorff entered the Military Cadet School at Gross Lischfeld, with the aim of becoming an officer, but did not secure a commission, joined a Dresden bank, but was dismissed by the latter, and from that time forth lived by fraud. His Berlin address was Giesenhaustrasse No. 59, where he was formerly stationed at Metz.

His wife, a German opera singer, whom he married in Germany in 1904, has just obtained a divorce from him in the Circuit Court at Chicago. (Copyright, 1912, by the Brentwood Company.)

## Voice of the People

In the New Future.  
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